



Recreation Fee Program 2002

Forest Accomplishments

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

One tough year . . .



Snoqualmie District Trail crew restoring tread on the Greenwater Trail.

Trail Maintenance

The winter of 2001-02 was marked by a heavier than normal snowpack, major avalanches, flooding, and severe windstorms. Forest crews, contractors, volunteers, and our partners got an early start cleaning up the biggest single year mess to the trail system in years. Some trails, such as the Suiattle, Ice Caves, and North Fork Sauk had more downed logs on them this year than they would normally have accumulate in a span of ten years. Funds from fees were critical to hire crews to clear these trails.

Fees were used to fund partnerships with a variety of youth groups which enabled the Forest to put crews to work restoring trail tread on the Canyon Ridge, Railroad Grade, East Fork Foss, Deception Lakes, and other trails.

Funds from Northwest Forest Pass sales also provided leverage to secure matching maintenance grants from Washington State. In addition to helping fund Forest Service and contract maintenance crews, these funds purchased helicopter support which was used to place materials along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Hidden Lakes Peak trails. This support enabled volunteer crews to construct much-needed trail puncheon and turnpike sections along these two trails.

Trailhead Maintenance

A total of 87 trailhead toilets were cleaned and restocked with paper an average of twice per week; bulletin boards were posted with updated information; and repairs completed on trailhead facilities as needed. Forest employees provided recreation and resource information to thousands of Forest visitors, while also making fee compliance contacts. Frequent maintenance visits were also made to 7 picnic sites and 2 rustic campgrounds. Visitor safety has increased as a result of these patrols. Funds from fees also allowed for toilets to be flown into areas within the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area where sanitation is an ongoing problem. The full toilets were flown out in the fall and empty ones in for use next season.

Heather Meadows

Forest employees and volunteers staffed the Heather Meadows Visitor Center on a daily basis from mid July through the end of September. They provided visitors with area information, interpretive programs, and performed facility maintenance. A NW Youth Corp crew worked for one week restoring abandoned trails near the Austin Pass Picnic Area. In addition, the Pacific Northwest Trail Association collected native vegetation, which will be propagated in their greenhouse for later transplanting back to the Austin Pass area.

Forest Accomplishments

Prepared by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Pacific Northwest Region, for the Recreation Fee Program to provide information regarding program accomplishments for fiscal year 2002.

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Pacific Northwest Trail Association crew splits new trail bridge decking from old road bridge stringer.

Your Fees At Work!

The Fees:

Project Name	Total \$ Dollars	\$Dollars in 2003	Cost to Collect	% Collect \$
Recreation Lodging	\$ 7,208	\$ 1,000	\$ 700	10%
Campgrounds	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
Northwest Forest Pass	\$ 595,096	\$ 600,000	\$ 60,000	10%
Heritage Expeditions	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
Golden Passport	\$ 2,182	\$ 4,000	\$ 500	20%
MBS Christmas Tree	\$ 43,828	\$ 60,000	\$ 4,188	10%

The Accomplishments:



Recreation Lodging: The Forest has two cabins available for rent: the Suiattle Guard Station and the Evergreen Mountain Lookout. Funds from fees provided for maintenance, repair, and upkeep of these buildings.



Northwest Forest Pass: Provided 90% of the funding for maintenance of 800 miles of trail and 140 trailheads, 7 picnic areas and 2 rustic camps. Utilized partnership agreements to leverage over 50,000 hours of volunteer work. Used funds to act as matching money to obtain \$130,000 in grants made available through the National Recreation Trails Program. Awarded trail maintenance contracts on two Ranger Districts. Each district hired a trail maintenance crew. Mountain Steward program initiated with North Cascades Institute.

NWFP funds enabled staffing to be provided at the Heather Meadows Visitor Center on a daily basis from July 15 through September 30. In addition to visitor and interpretive services, trails were restored in the Austin Pass area. Vegetation was collected for propagation in a greenhouse staffed by student volunteers under an agreement with the Pacific Northwest Trail Association.

Specific Forest Projects: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Christmas Tree Program

Program sold 4,380 permits to cut Christmas trees. Sales paid for front desk support and field presence to administer this popular program.